

From: Son Hawaii [son.hawaii@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2008 7:05 AM
To: Kobayashi, Ann H.; Marshall, Barbara; Djou, Charles; Dela Cruz, Donovan M; Okino, Gary; Garcia, Nestor; Tam, Rod; Cachola, Romy; Apo, Todd K
Cc: City Clerk; Eng, Henry; Mayor Mufi Hannemann
Subject: Say No to Bills 6,7 & 9, Say Yes to Bill 8: Gulf Island BC Canada bans vacation rentals in residential zones



“E Malama i ka Nohona Kaiaulu o O‘ahu.”

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 CITY CLERK
 HONOLULU, HAWAII

Dear Council Members;

The owners of illegal B&B's and TVU's have repeatedly claimed that “only” Oahu has issues with short-term rentals. Please review the attached PDF file (**Gulf Island BC Canada bans vacation rentals in residential zones**) that documents their propaganda is false. Visitor lodging businesses such as B&B's and TVU's located in residential zoned neighborhoods are increasingly becoming a problem for many municipalities around the country and the world.

As unanimously recommended by the Planning Commission; Please **OPPOSE** Bills 6,7 & 9, & **SUPPORT** Bill 8. Thank you for protecting our residential zoned neighborhoods.

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give enforcement officers the power to act on the basis of any advertisements, whether in print or on the internet, for vacation rental accommodation.

Despite the broader enforcement powers, the Trust's bylaw officers have yet to issue any tickets to owners of any Salt Spring vacation rental properties. The long-term prohibition has resulted in little short-term action.

The lack of action has left island residents like Vicky Hodson frustrated with laws that don't bite.

Hodson and her husband Nick have spent four years writing letters and making calls to the Trust asking for some action on a vacation property operating near their home on Scott Point. Despite their efforts, it was business as usual all summer.

"I really don't understand why there is a process," Hodson said. "It's a joke."

The prospect of a \$100-per-day fine — as stipulated in Bylaw No. 410 — is not enough to dissuade renters from providing accommodation to guests willing to pay anywhere between \$1,200 and \$5,000 per week, according to Miles Drew, an Islands Trust bylaw enforcement officer based in Victoria.

Instead of levying fines, he said, the Islands Trust is preparing to seek a court injunction prohibiting an operator from using his property as a vacation rental.

Because the case remains in its infancy, Drew would not divulge neither the location nor the property owner. The lone case has been selected because it presents "significant trouble to neighbours involved," he said.

If successful, Drew added, the Islands Trust feels the decision will send vacation rental owners a message once and for all.

"A representative case brought to the courts reduces the possibility of others violating the bylaw," he said. "We believe we are going with the more powerful and most effective approach. The mere threat of taking legal action will be a deterrent."

Drew could not say when the Trust would proceed with the case.

"We're working on it," he said. "We'll take it one step at a time. We remain in the early days."